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Media Advisory: Hydromaniacs fly planes over Columbia River

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, July 9, 1997

PR 27 97

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Inner-city children in BPA's Hydromania Summer Science Camp will co-pilot a plane and fly above the Columbia River to learn about geography and aviation.

Who: The Bonneville Power Administration will wrap up this year's first Hydromania Summer Science Camp for Portland inner-city youth with a field trip to meet Chapter 105 of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

What: Members of the Experimental Aircraft Association will introduce 65 fourth through sixth graders to flying an airplane. The campers will individually co-pilot a plane and fly over the Columbia River.

When: Friday, July 11, 1997, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Burgerville will barbecue hamburgers for the campers following the airplane flights.

Where: The westside of the Scappoose Airport near the hangars. The airport is about 20 miles from Portland on Highway 30.

Why: Hydromania aims to help kids discover math and science concepts through real experiences. Airplanes are a perfect vehicle.

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Facts About the 1997 Hydromania Summer Science Camps

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- The Bonneville Power Administration, in conjunction with the Portland Parks & Recreation Department is hosting the sixth consecutive Hydromania Summer Science Camp season between June 30, 1997 and Aug. 8, 1997.

- Hydromania aims to help kids discover math and science concepts through real experiences. The program focuses on disadvantaged and “at-risk” youth, including females and minorities, in North, Northeast and Southeast Portland. In addition to individual and group instruction, the kids participate in hands-on activities and field trips.
- About 30-35 kids are enrolled in each of the six sessions of free, two-week day camps. Through the unique design of the camps, the staff of certified teachers and college and high school students work in a team environment to explore new approaches to science education. This, in turn, creates a “spin-off” benefit by helping staff members enhance their teaching methods – which is especially helpful for those teachers returning to the classroom.
- Aside from learning about math and science concepts, Hydromania participants learn about important regional issues, such as water issues related to energy and the environment and Native American perspectives on the region’s physical geography.
- Some of the field trip activities for the 1996 summer season include airplane flights, rafting trips, tide pool exploration, excursions to Mt. St. Helens, and Bonneville Dam. These activities would not have been possible without the donation of goods and services from public and private sponsors.
- Hydromania fever is spreading fast. It took just two months to reach the maximum camp enrollment of 210 kids – the shortest Hydromania enrollment period ever. Unfortunately, an estimated 100 participants had to be turned away.
- Including this year’s camp sessions, more than 1,050 kids have participated in Hydromania since the program began in 1990.

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